

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (original): A purified polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence depicted in SEQ ID No. 7 or a sequence possessing at least 80% similarity thereto.

Claim 2 (original): An isolated polypeptide of a least 15 contiguous amino acids of the polypeptide of claim 1.

Claims 3-9 (cancelled).

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Claim 10 (currently amended): ~~Use of the polypeptide of claim 1 in any assay~~ A method to identify compounds that inhibit phosphomevalonate kinase (PMK) activity, said method comprising the steps of contacting a test compound with the polypeptide of claim 1, and determining the effect of the test compound on the activity of said polypeptide.

Claims 11-14 (cancelled).

Claim 15 (currently amended): A diagnostic kit for detecting the presence of *C. albicans* comprising: one or more diagnostic probe(s) and/or diagnostic primer(s) and/or antibodies capable of selectively hybridising or binding to ~~the polynucleotide of claim 6 of~~ the polypeptide of claim 1, and instructions for use.